

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 03925 090653Z

13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /090 W

----- 046500

R 090525Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1331

INFO CINCPAC

USSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3925

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EAID, TH, US

SUBJ: PRESS VISIT TO USSAG HEADQUARTERS

REF : A) BANGKOK 3335 C) STATE 046104
A) BANGKOK 3707 D) STATE 047463

1. PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS REFTTEL C, POMIL COUNSELOR RAISED QUESTION OF PRESS VISIT TO USSAG HEADQUARTERS AND INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL O'KEEFE WITH GENERAL KRIANGSAK AT SUPREME COMMAND (FORWARD) MARCH 8. KRIANGSAK WAS SKEPTICAL RE FOISIE'S GOOD INTENTIONS AND TYPE OF STORIES WHICH MIGHT EMERGE, BUT AFTER DUE REFLECTION ON OTHER ASPECTS, HE CONCEDED THAT HE WOULD INTERPOSE NO OBJECTION TO SUCH A REQUEST. IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUERY RE TIMING, WE SAID THAT, IN VIEW OF GENERAL O'KEEFE'S ABSENCE, EARLY APRIL TIME FRAME WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.

2. ALTHOUGH MFA ATTITUDE IS SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN, WE DO NOT CONSIDER FURTHER PRELIMINARYCONSULTATION WITH HIGH LEVEL RTG OFFICIALS NECESSARY. THEREFORE, WE PLAN TO ADVISE FOISIE INFORMALLY EARLY NEXT WEEK THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO SEEK RTG APPROVAL FOR A GROUP MEDIA VISIT TO USSAG HEADQUARTERS IN EARLY APRIL FOLLOWING GENERAL O'KEEFE'S RETURN AND ASK HIM TO NOMINATE DATES. ON THAT BASIS WE WILL FILE
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REQUEST WITH MFA, AND RUN INTERFERENCE WITH APPROPRIATE

OFFICIALS AS NECESSARY.

3. COMMENT: FORTUNATELY WE WERE ABLE TO GET INFORMAL
RTG RECOGNITION OF NECESSITY TO ALLOW USSAG VISIT WITHOUT
EMPLOYING THREATS OR HEAVY ARTILLERY; WE HOPE TO OVERCOME
ANY FURTHER HITCHES IN ACCORDANCE WITH HELPFUL GUIDELINES
AND BACKGROUND CONTAINED REFTEL D.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LAW, MILITARY BASES, JOURNALISTS, VISITS, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO003925
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740355/aaaabzlt.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) BANGKOK 3335 C) STATE 046104
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Aug-2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS VISIT TO USSAG HEADQUARTERS
TAGS: MASS, EAID, TH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005